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ANNFIELD PLAIN
Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
Annual + Report
For 1905.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1905.

Stanley,

February 5th, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to your Council my Annual Report for the year 1905.

Although Coal Mining is the chief industry of the district, yet your Authority exercises no control over its management, the mines being regulated by special legislative Acts. All other industries, however, come under your supervision through the powers given by the Factory and Workshop's Act.

This Act requires systematic inspection by the Medical Officer or the Inspector of all premises where men or women are employed. The chief points in the Act provide for ventilation of work-rooms, proper sanitary requirements, easy exit in case of fire, prevention of overcrowding, and lime washing in certain circumstances, with special clauses relating to public bakeries. Under the term "Factories" are included industries where mechanical power is used, as gasworks, brick-works, sawmills, cornmills, electric lighting, and aerated water making, and under "Workshops" all other employments. The latter give a total of eighteen, and the former nine. In the manufacture of bricks, no chemicals are used. No wholesale bakery is in use, and those for the retail trade are kept clean. Your Inspector's last report states that "nothing has occurred in connection with the Factory and Workshop's Act that necessitates any action being taken." Where the slaughter-houses are kept in a cleanly condition, they give no cause for complaint.

INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

During the year, there were 194 new houses built and occupied, and out of this number, 92 were self-contained, and having three or more rooms, and 51 were tenemented, with two or more rooms above, and three or more below. In the former each tenant has his own yard and out-office, in the latter, the sanitary arrangements are common to two tenants. The houses are well built, and the surroundings are satisfactory.

OLD PROPERTY.—It has not been necessary to take any action under the Housing of the Working Classes' Act, nevertheless, great improvements have been made, the plans of the same being approved of by your Council, notably 20 defective houses situated at South Pontop have been pulled down and re-built. Two other houses have shared the same fate and one hotel was practically rebuilt. In consequence of colliery subsidences, 9 houses were permanently closed on account of their dangerous condition. In 19 instances, delapidated privies and ashpits were replaced by modern structures, 16 as ash-closets, and 3 as water-closets with dry ashpits. The old "combinations" are steadily disappearing.

SCAVENGING and REMOVAL of HOUSE REFUSE has been done by contract, and generally in a satisfactory manner, but owing to the increase of small closets, it has been considered advisable to have weekly cleansings instead of fortnightly, as hitherto. Deposits for the refuse have been found either on the land, or in old quarries, and depressions from pit-falls, and in situations not likely to create any nuisance. No less than 120 notices have been served for the removal of various nuisances, and in no instance was it necessary to enforce compliance. Workers' houses are in great demand, and as a result, over-crowding is not uncommon, several cases have come under observation and been dealt with at once.

SEWERS and SEWAGE.—A new sewer has been laid at Dipton Wood Houses, and extended to the adjoining outfall works. Suitable trapped gullies have been made and fixed to the houses, and the connections made, doing away with the offensive open channels. Practically the whole district is sewered, and it only requires the construction of outfall works to treat the sewage flowing from South Medomsley Cottages to have the matter of sewage disposal completed.

WATER SUPPLY.—Excepting a few outlying houses that derive their supply of water from wells, the district is provided with an excellent and abundant supply by the Consett Water Co. The water is collected on the fells, and passed through a filtering process before distribution. The water is laid to each house inside the premises.

MILK SUPPLY.—There are no dairies for the sale of milk over the counter. The milk is supplied by farmers and cow keepers, and distributed from door to door. The supply

seems adequate, and its character good. None of the cows are stall-fed, all are provided with grazing ground. Some of the cow-sheds are wooden erections, where the ventilation is not quite perfect; those defective are under observation, and will receive attention. At one farmstead, the cow-byers were re-constructed according to instructions.

LODGING HOUSES.—There are three licensed lodging houses in the district, and the provisions of the Act are carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner by the caretakers.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases reported during the year, amounted to 111, and these were made up of the following diseases, viz., 24 of Diphtheria, 53 of Scarlatina, 22 of Enteric Fever, and 12 of Erysipelas. The number for the preceding year was 130, being a decrease for the year 1905 of 19 cases. A brief account of the outbreak and course of each disease follows.

DIPHTHERIA.—The infection of Diphtheria was carried over from the year 1904, and has retained its hold during the whole of the past year, but at no time could the outbreak be called an epidemic. The total cases for the year being only 24. Although every effort was made to isolate the patients, home isolation was not always successful, especially in mild cases, where too early contact with the healthy was permitted. 3 deaths resulted.

SCARLATINA.—There has been a marked decline of Scarlatina since the Isolation Hospital was established. This disease was almost everywhere in colliery districts, owing to the disemanating of infective germs during the period that the patient was undergoing the peeling stage, and the difficulty experienced in destroying those germs by any process of disinfection. Since the establishment of an Isolation Hospital, however, each patient admitted to the institution, prevented probably what would have been a centre of infection. 53 cases occurred during the year, and out of that number, 21 were admitted to the Hospital. Out of the full number of cases there was only one fatality.

ENTERIC FEVER. —The large number of 22 cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year. Investigation failed to definitely trace the origin of any of the outbreaks. In one instance the initial case was not recognised until a month had elapsed, with the result that 8 cases followed. In another instance, a similar state of things occurred and three cases followed. The remaining cases were isolated, and at such an age, that they could have gone out of the district to acquire the infection. 18 cases were removed to the Hospital, 2 were unfit for removal, and 2 had home isolation. In all cases where the patient was isolated during the first fortnight of the illness, no infection was left, but infection seemed to be easily transferred after the half-way stage. There were 2 fatalities. At the end of the year, the district was completely free from the disease. It may be mentioned that none of the outbreaks originated through imperfect sanitary conditions.

ERYSIPELAS.—There was no evidence to show that Erysipelas was infectious. One was not directly the product of another.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles and Whooping Cough pay periodical visits to the district. There were two invasions of each. Both took an epidemic form, but not very seriously, as none of the schools were much effected. The deaths that followed were 1 of Measles and 8 of Whooping Cough.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Hospital Accommodation for the isolation of certain infectious diseases, is ample for the district, and unquestionably proving itself a great boon.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year, there were registered 485 births, equal to a birthrate of 34·6, and the number of deaths returned were 223, giving a death-rate of 15·9 per 1,000, estimating the population at the end of June last at 14,000. The births are 39 and the deaths 26 below the previous year. Deaths from Zymotic Diseases including Diarrhœa amounted to 31, being 12 less than the year 1904. With regard to infantile mortality, 94

deaths occurred under the age of one year, being 11 more than in the previous year. However considering the increase of population, the number of infant deaths per 1,000 population for the two years is practically the same. The Local Government Board have taken up the matter of infantile mortality, and have issued an extra form to be filled up, with a view probably to taking some action. What has been done locally in this matter, is the instructing of the parents, to lessen if possible the supposed chief causes of mortality among infants. Printed pamphlets have been issued to the Registrars for distribution, and they have kindly consented to distribute them, on the registration of each birth.

The following table shews how the various rates of this district compare with those of the county.

		County.	Annfield Plain.
Birth-rate	per 1,000 population ..	35'4	... 34'6
Death-rate	" " " ...	17'4	.. 15'9
Zymotic Death-rate	" " " ...	2.37	... 2'21
Infantile mortality-rate (per 1,000 births)	159	...	193'8
Small-pox	per 1,000 population ...	0'002	... nil
Scarlet Fever	" " " ..	0'09	... 0'07
Diphtheria &			
Membranous Croup	" " ...	0'25	... 0'21
Enteric Fever	" " ...	0'20	... 0'14
Measles	" " ...	0'48	... 0'07
Whooping Cough	" " ...	0'42	... 0'57
Diarrhœa	" " ...	0'9	... 1'07
Enteritis	" " ...	0'36	... 0'21
Phthisis	" " ...	1'00	... 1'21
Other Tubercular diseases	" ...	0'74	... 0'85
Respiratory diseases	" " ...	3'16	... 2'57

Attached are the various Government Forms.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

THOMAS BENSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Urban District Council,
Annfield Plain.

Table 1.
ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.	At all Ages.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number				Rate.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1897	11,500	420	37.4	76	174.4	189	16.4			7	196	17	
1898	11,800	475	40	104	204.7	190	16			12	202	17	
1899	12,100	442	35.5	75	169.6	192	16			10	202	16.6	
1900	12,300	472	39	85	180	223	18			6	229	18.5	
1901	12,500	523	41.8	86	162.5	229	18.3			—	229	18.3	
1902	12,700	523	40	79	151	210	16.5			12	222	17.5	
1903	13,100	510	38.9	89	174.5	232	17.7			13	245	18.7	
1904	13,500	524	38.4	83	158.4	238	17.6			11	249	18.5	
Averages for years 1897-1904	12,438	486	38.9	84	171.9	213	17.1			9	222	17.8	
1905	14,000	485	34.6	94	193.8	213	15.2			10	223	15.9	

Area of District in acres }
(exclusive of area } 3475
covered by water.) }

Total population at all ages 12481
Number of inhabited houses 2271
Average number of persons per house 5½ } At Census of 1901.

Table III.
ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ...								
Cholera ...								
Diphtheria ...	24		6	14	2	2		11
Membranous croup ...								
Erysipelas ...	12			1	3	7	1	
Scarlet fever ...	53		19	29	5			21
Typhus fever...								
Enteric fever...	22			6	10	6		18
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever								
Plague ...								
Totals ...	111		15	50	20	15	1	50

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—

Tanfield Isolation Hospital.

County Asylum.

Lanchester Workhouse.

Table IV.
ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or non Residents in Public Institu- tions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox								
Measles	1	1						
Scarlet fever	1			1				
Whooping-cough	8	4	4					
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup	3		2	1				
Croup								
Fever { Typhus								
{ Enteric	2			1	1			
{ Other contin'd								
Epidemic influenza	1					1		
Cholera								
Plague... ..								
Diarrhœa	15	14					1	
Enteritis	3	2	1					
Puerperal fever								
Erysipelas	1						1	
Other septic diseases... ..								
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17		1	3	1	12		
Other tubercular diseases	12	3	7	1		1		
Cancer, malignant disease	3				1	2		
Bronchitis	30	15	8	1	1	4	1	
Pneumonia	5	1	1	1	1		1	
Pleurisy	1				1			
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs								
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of liver }	1					1		
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	6	6						
Diseases and accidents of parturition	4				2	2		
Heart diseases	15	2				9	4	
Accidents	11		4		1	5	1	
Suicides						1		
All other causes	72	46	5			13	8	
All causes	213	94	33	9	9	51	17	

THOMAS BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 5th, 1906.

Table V.
ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.
Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	Certified...	...	17	5	4	1	27	10	8	8	5	8	9		3	3	4	8	93
	Uncertified	...	1				1												1
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...																	
	Chicken-pox	...																	
	Measles	...								1									1
	Scarlet Fever	...																	
	Diphtheria. Croup	...																	
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping Cough	...							1	1		1					1		4
	Diarrhoea, all forms	...			1		1	3	3		1		1		2		2	1	14
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...										1	1						2
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...																	
	Premature Birth	...	5	1			6												6
Wasting Diseases.	Congenital Defects	...						1				1							2
	Injury at Birth	...																	
	Want of Breast-milk	...																	
	Atrophy, Debility	...																	
	Marasmus	...	9	3	2		14	2	2	3	2	2	1		1	2			29
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis	...																	
	Tuberculous Peritonitis	...																	
	Tabes Mesenterica	...									1		2						3
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...																	
	Erysipelas	...																	
	Syphilis	...																	
	Rickets	...																	
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...								1			1				1		3
	Convulsions	...	2	1	1		4	1				1	1					1	8
	Bronchitis	...						1	1	2	1	2	2			1		5	15
	Laryngitis	...				1	1		1										2
	Pneumonia	...						1											1
	Suffocation, overlaying	...	1				1												1
	Other Causes	...	1				1	1										1	3
			18	5	4	1	28	10	8	8	5	8	9		3	3	4	8	94

Births in the year {legitimate 473
 {illegitimate 12 Population Estimated to middle of 1905 } 14000
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 94.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework

I—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories 9 (Including Factory Laundries).	2		
Workshops 18 (Including Workshop Laundries).	2		
Workplaces		None.	None.
Homeworkers' Premises			
Total 27	4		

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total				

3—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories	Nil.
Homework in unwholesome or infected Premises	Nil.

T. BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 5th, 1906.